

REMARKS

The Examiner has required an election in the present application between:

Species 1, illustrated in Fig(s). 1;

Species 2, illustrated in Fig(s). 16; and

Species 3, illustrated in Fig(s). 14.

For the purpose of examination of the present application, Applicants elect Species 1, illustrated in Fig(s). 1 without traverse.

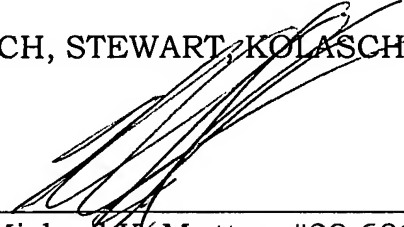
Claim(s) 1-4 are directed to the elected species. Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Michael K. Mutter (Reg. No. 29,680) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By


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